The Mat-Su Monitor

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WEDNESDAY PROTEST PLANNED

Members of most of the student governments of the entire University of Alaska system are planning a statewide protest on Wednesday, April 20. Times will vary from campus to campus. MSC will stage its protest from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

The protest was organized by the student government NET, the coalition of student governments in the U of A system.

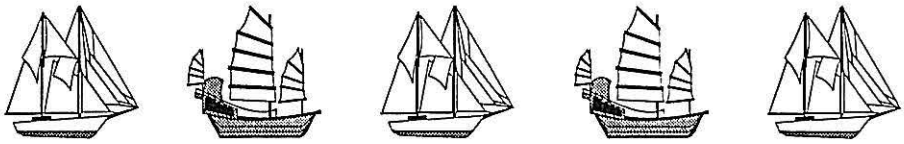
The overall reason for the protest is that the legislature will be severely underfunding the university in months to come.

The protest at MSC will focus on the lack of funding to operate the new addition. Members of the NET urge students to cut class and show support for the protest.

EWING REELECTED PRESIDENT

Mark Ewing, current president of the MSC student government, was reelected president for the 94-95 school year. Ewing received 115 votes to Curtis Dunkin's 60. Running unopposed were **Shelia Keyser**, elected as vice-president, and **David Orlando,** elected as media board representative.

The election was preceded by a vigorous campaign that stirred up unusual interest in the annual spring voting. The participants expressed hope that the active student participation will continue throughout the next semesters.



The student government is looking for students and staff interested in forming a team to represent MSC for the canoe races during the Wasilla Water Festival held in July. In the past, the race has run from Lake Wasilla through the Finger and Cottonwood Lakes system. Almost any kind of man-powered craft may be used, so sign up now to be a sailor or donate the use of a suitable water conveyance.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG!

What with a name of Machetanz, red trim on the windows and 70, count it, 70% completion, the new building now looks like an intregal part of the parent structures.

Too bad, isn't it, that it most likely won't be opened for lack of funding to operate it. Too bad it will just sit there like a big, gray lump.

Maybe we should install a few barrel stoves and log a few cords from the grounds for heating?

While we're at it, we can have each student bring a candle for lighting. We'll all do our sums on slates with charcoal sticks.

Maybe we should just rent it out for storage--MSC Mini-Storage.

It takes a lot of bake sales to raise a quarter of a million dollars. Anybody got any better ideas?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

The spring graduation committee still needs students to help out at commencement on Friday, May 13, at 7:30 pm at Colony Middle School Gymnasium.

Students need not be a member of student government to help out with ushering, flowers, and the reception afterwards. See Michelle in the student government office for details.

EDITOR NEEDED!

The student government will be accepting applications for editor of the Mat-Su Monitor during 94-95 school year until the end of this spring semester.

The Monitor also needs staff writers, reporters, and cartoonists.

Drop off a resume with Michelle in the student government office.

There is a possibility that credit will be given for the editor's position.

OPINION

EMPTY PROMISES--EMPTY BUILDING

by *Carolyn E. Long*

It's like a painter with no canvas,
like a car with no tires,
like a bow with no arrows,
like a boat with no water,
like a light bulb with no electricity.

Giving us a new building without the means to operate it--heat it, light it, furnish it, clean it--is the height of fiscal and economic stupidity on the part of the Alaska State Legislature. Our representatives in Juneau aren't dumb; they all have at least a modicum of intelligence and the ability to plan ahead. And if they don't know when they first arrive on the scene at the Capitol, they soon get it thumped into their heads what the situation is oil-wise.

I mean, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that oil prices have been taking a nose-dive for some years now and that there is a global glut of oil that will most likely continue for a long time. The House and Senate blithely allocated funds to construct our new addition and yet they are now seriously considering budget cuts that will eliminate the funding to operate the addition.

They should have known, must have known, what the financial outlook was at the time they allocated the funds to build the addition. What they are planning now makes no sense whatsoever. Nobody in their right mind plans multi-million dollar new construction without being assured of the means to use it properly when it's finished.

We all know they have the money tucked away in their back pockets somewhere. It's just a matter of persuading them to ***finish*** the job they started, a more than reasonable request. We have every right to expect this logical behavior from our legislators.

We also know that the petro-dollars ***are*** shrinking rapidly and we must not have great expectations for the future. But the least the House and the Senate could do is act sensibly for once and take proper care of an Alaskan investment already made.

It's a power play; they are watching us to see how loud we scream. Let's show them on Wednesday how loud Mat-Su College can be heard in Juneau.

And remember that 99% of we college students are of ***voting age.***

It's like a farmer with no land,
like a banker with no money,
like a dentist with no drills,
it's a new building with no heat, no lights, no water, and ***no students in it.***

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Carolyn E. Long--Editor
Michelle McGehee--Staff Secretary
Mark Ewing, Andrea C. Leonard, Shirley Hendrix--Guest Columnists
Jim Ernstsen--ASHRAE Reporter

The Mat-Su Monitor welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columnists. Please see personel in the Student Government Office for more information or drop material in our mail box at the College or mail to PO Box 2889, Palmer, Ak., 99645.

JURIED ART SHOW

by *Carolyn E. Long*

The annual Mat-Su Juried Student Art Show is on display in the MSC Atrium. The show features works by art students from MSC and UAA and will run from April 11 through May 14. The show was juried by Garry Kaulitz, a professor of printmaking at UAA.

Winners are:

Best of Show:

Culture Change, watercolor by Kim Donofrio.

First Place Painting:

Cranes, oil by Joyce Reynolds.

Honorable Mention Painting:

Untitled, oil by Joyce Reynolds.

First Place Fiber:

Untitled, woven hand dyed silk by Marilynn Chevalier.

Honorable Mention Fiber:

Echoes of the Ocean, dyed silk and metallics by Katia Zhestkova.

First Place Metals:

Silver Pin, sterling silver by Karin Moell.

Honorable Mention:

Strato Snake, sterling silver by C. E. Long.

First Place 3-D:

Seeds of Life, cast paper by Christine Marsh.

Honorable Mention 3-D:

Armadillo Headdress, mixed media by Gail Moses.

First Place Drawing:

Cow's in the Meadow, pastel by Lulu Pittard.

Honorable Mention Drawing:

Untitled, colored pencil by Lynda Senta.

First Place Printing:

In the Spring, linoleum block by Marilynn Chevalier.

The show has a wide variety of works that range from the traditional to much more experimental. Of special interest this year are the 3-D works, representation of which was lacking in last year's show.

The judging of this year's show aroused quite a controversy among the students because of the various choices made. As a result, Richard Bensen, art instructor at MSC, issued a statement regarding the judging.

"In earlier years of the student show at MSC, all work submitted was accepted and displayed. In recent years, the large quantity of entries has warrented a juried show.

A juror's choice is inherently subjective, based on the academic, aesthetic, and personal experience of the juror. Therefore, a decision is that of a particular juror and not an 'absolute" evaluation of any particular piece of work.

Anyone who has shown in any type of juried show has experienced the varied outcomes depending on any specific situation.

Consequently, as less than one half of the entries were chosen for exhibition in our limited space, we also have an alternate show in the cafeteria--*The Salon de Refuses.*

The tradition originates from 1863 when the official French Salon refused almost four-fifths of the works submitted. An alternate show which featured many of the early Impressionists was formed.

Congratulations to all the art students at MSC for the rich variety, quality, and quantity reflected by this year's entries."

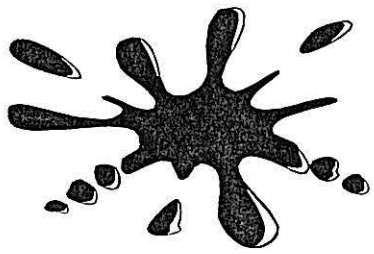
The juror issued his own statement:

"I was pleasantly surprised by the diversity and creative depth of the work I judged, considering the limitations of the facilities for art at Mat-Su. Under such crowded conditions, it is a wonder any serious art gets done, and yet the work was quite rich and varied.

There were some excellent technical works, however, I felt that the technical aspects of the work were less than the creative concerns. I was very impressed with the depth of creative energy that was expressed throughout the body of work I judged.

I suspect the weaker aspects of the technical side of the work are related to the number of classes offered in any given area, rather than the quality of the student. Were there more offerings and depth I suspect this aspect of the art would grow.

Congratulations on what you have produced with so little to produce it with."



R & H STUDENTS TO TAKE EPA TEST

by ***Jim Ernstsen***

Students in the Refrigeration and Heating Department will have the opportunity to take the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) refrigerant handling test at Mat-Su College.

The test, administered by the Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) will be held May 14, 1994, the day after graduation.

This test consists of four sections, each with 25 questions. The first section, the core, covers EPA regulations and timeframes, and must be passed to receive certification in the particular categories.

Categories include small appliances, high pressure systems, and low pressure systems. There are 25 questions per section. A score of 72% or higher is required to pass any section.

The certification is required for the handling or purchase of class I or II refrigerants, according to the Clean Air Act of 1990.

This is the first time this test has been available at Mat-Su College. A $40.00 fee is required to take the test, which is open to anyone in the HVAC(R) industry.

ANSWER TO PUZZLE

The children were so befogged over the calendar that they had started on their way to school on **Sunday** morning.

MORE OPINION by *C.LONG*

Dr. G. Warren Smith, finalist for chancellor of UAA, will be at Mat-Su College on April 20 from 10:30 to 11:10 am in Room JKB 8. Dr. Smith is a chemist and former head of chemistry at UAF. Since his visit coincides with our planned protest, what say we nail him with questions about what he would do to help us out in this particular situation? Make him squirm a little; put him on the spot and don't let him get away with pat answers. Let's see if this candidate can ***bond*** with ***radicals.***

Many thanks to Eric and Mike from maintainance for helping out with the posters and signs for the protest.

LITERARY ITEMS

Tobias Wolff, Writer in Residence at UAA, will give lectures on April 22 at 8:00 pm in Wendy Williamson Auditorium and also on April 23 at 3:00 pm. These events are free and open to the public.

We still don't have a winner for last month's poetry contest to guess the author of the poem about the fish. Hint: She is a contemporary poet who has won the Pulitzer Prize.

ENGLISH

by *Shirley Hendrix*

The English language is the most wonderful, communicative instrument in the world due to its uniquely rich and expressive vocabulary--500,000 words--more than three times as many as its nearest competitor. The words tell us about the lives of the people who made English what it is--how they lived, where they traveled, and whom they met along the way. The story of where all these words came from is as remarkable as the vocabulary itself.

The history of the English tongue is conventionally dated around 430 A.D., when the people called the Anglo-Saxons began migrating into Britain. The date is clearly arbitrary. If these immigrants were speaking English when they landed, they must have been speaking English when they left the shores of the North Sea. The words help us reconstruct the "lost" cultures that spoke languages ancestral to English: languages that were never recorded in writing. Just who were these linguistic founding fathers--and mothers--and where and when did they live?

The first identifiable ancestor of English dates from no more than about 8000 years ago. We owe its discovery to Sir William Jones, a British judge in India, who, around 1780, set out to learn the ancient Sanskrit tongue. Jones' original intention was to familiarize himself with native Indian law codes, some of which were written in Sanskrit. To his surprise, he began encountering Sanskrit words that clearly resembled words of identical or similar meanings in the classical tongues. Therefore, he deduced they must have the same common source.

Jones' deduction has been fully confirmed by nearly two centuries of research. We now know that the linguistic descendants of his "common source' include not only Sanskrit, which is the ancestor of the majority of tongues currently spoken in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, but also Greek, Latin and its descendants, the Celtic and Germanic Tongues, the Baltic and Slavonic languages, the Iranian tongue of western Asia, and various minor languages, both current and extinct. Collectively, they are the native tongues of about half the human race. The "common source' itself is now called Indo-European, which must once have been spoken by some tribe or group of tribes inhabiting a limited area in the Danube Valley about 6000 B.C.. Their multiplying descendants carried their language, in scores of variations, around the world.

The Indo-European family tree, like any other tree, divides and subdivides into limbs, branches, and twigs. English can be described as the largest and most vigorous branch growing from the West Germanic limb. Through this branch we have inherited the words that have "always" been in English. *see page 7*

<The CUBE>

a presentation of the MSC Math Club
by Kelly Pollock

I have been exploring the possibilities a math major would have open in the way of career choices. While reading in the 1994 Spring issue of Math Horizons magazine on pages 14-16, I found some interesting quotes from math majors that had some good advice and ideas.

"Enjoy your four year program and take advantage of the time you have. Maturing in mathematics takes time."

"Work at it and don't stop just because you become frustrated, because you will become frustrated."

"Working with other students helps a lot."

"Communicating your ideas to your group helps you understand the concepts. It is so important to learn to communicate mathematical ideas."

"Two hours (bookwork) for every hour of lecture."

"It is much more helpful to actually read the text that comes before the problems to get a better understanding about what is going on."

It is also exciting to talk to people about possibilities. I talked with Kerm Ketchum--the computer science professor--who said someone with a mathematics degree (and computer science minor) would have no problem getting a good job.

The only problem, of course, is that the jobs are not labled "mathematician." It takes some research to figure out what jobs (beyond being a math teacher) would utilize math skills.

Dr. Chang has a poster on his bulletin board that gives some examples of how some people have used math degrees in their careers. You should go have a look; it is very interesting.

PUZZLING PRATTLE

Two children who were tangled up in the reckoning of the days of the week paused on the way to school to straighten matters out.

"When the day after tomorrow is yesterday," said Priscilla, "then 'today' will be as far from Sunday as that day was which was 'today' when the day before yesterday was tomorrow."

On which day of the week did this puzzling prattle occur? See page 3 for answer.

From "Mathematical Puzzles," by Sam Lloyd, 1960, offered by Rhona Williams.

Trig Tips

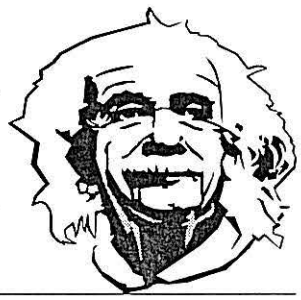
A mnemonic can help you remember the ratios. The first letters in the following rhymes represent the letters in the ratios:

SOME OLD HORSE	SIN = OPP/HYP
CAUGHT A HORSE	COS = ADJ/HYP
TAKING OATS AWAY	TAN = OPP/ADJ

From "Merrill Geometry Applications & Connections, "1993, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishing Co.

Quote of the Day

"Why should I remember things when I can look them up?" Albert Einstein



THE GREAT MSC SCRUB-OFF

by *Mark Ewing*

The weeks of April included two heavily competitive contests: the student government elections and the first Mat-Su College Scrub-off. We all know about the elections, but the scrub-off, with as much if not more enthusiasm, took place in Snodgrass Hall with little fanfare. The competition was equally as tough, but for the winner, the final results were as clean as the Pope's underwear.

The Economics 202 class directed by Wes Van Loon proved that the public (at least the students in this class) are not as gullable as corporate America may think. The members of Econ 202 spent time evaluating a variety of home use products. The Scrub-off compared carpet shampoos in everyway possible. Price, size, and time were just a few of the considerations.

The test carpet was stained in several locations with motor oil, red berry syrup, and the dreaded Gray Poupon mustard. By the way, for those of you in a certain English 111 class, "the rug was blue."

The students looked at each product independently and without bias, although I did detect a small amount of latent product dependence on a few of the more advertized brands. Resolve Pump, Resolve Pressurized, Woolite, Carpet Science, Glamorine, and Amway were pitted against each other. (As a science major, I was pulling for Carpet Science).

Other topics of concern were user friendliness and the hazards to the environment. Pressurized cans seemed to create the largest problem in the way of disposal; trash compactors are not built to withstand the explosions these cans cause. Each student took turns applying a product to the test carpet, strictly adhering to the instructions provided on the product.

A few of the products required a background in Technical Writing to comprehend the instructions for proper application. Thank God Mr.Van Loon was able to interpret the technico babble.

The results were staggering, with my favorite, Carpet Science, winning the Red Lantern. The Number One favored product among the students, Woolite, came close, but no cigar. The product with the best ability to remove all the stains was--believe it or not--AMWAY.

So remember this the next time your doorbell rings and the stranger standing there is not with the Mormon church; it's probably the Amway person. Take my advice; at least buy the carpet shampoo.

Special thanks to Shirley Hendrix for lending me her notes. Also thanks to the entire class for my first lesson in understandable economics.

PLAQUE PRESENTED

On April 8, Mark Ewing presented Don Hagbo, manager of Homesteader's Hardware in Big Lake, with a plaque thanking the store for its generous support during the 1993 Alaska State Fair parade.

Homesteader's donated most of the materials for MSC's third place winning float.

GRADUATION

The graduation caremonies for Mat-Su College students will be held on May 13, 1994, at Colony Middle School Gymnasium, starting at 7:30 pm. Sara Machetanz will be the featured speaker.

The public is welcome to attend and there will be a reception afterwards for graduates and friends.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Registration for summer school will take place on Friday, April 22, from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm. Summer school classes will run from May 16 through July 2. The next registration for fall semester is on July 20.

TWO CONCERTS

The Noontime Singers of Mat-Su College will present a spring concert on Friday, April 29, at 7:30 pm at the Wasilla Presbyterian Church.

The Mat-Su Community Chorus and the Mat-Su Community Band will have a joint spring concert on Friday, may 6, at 7:00 pm at Wasilla Presbyterian Church.

This concert will have mixed selections of classical and jazz music with a special number from "Aladin." Many of the chorus and band members are students here at MSC.

THE ROUND THING

Be sure and stop by the new exhibit about MSC in the hall by the administration desk. You can't miss it; it has the oddest curves and fuzzy surface, plus pix of your fellow students caught unawares by the photographer.

BENEFIT GARAGE SALE

Friends of Vicki Cole, fiber teacher at MSC whose studio burned down earlier this winter, will stage a benefit garage and art sale on April 30, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, at the Chain Reaction Studio in downtown Wasilla.

Good old fashioned junk and high quality, but inexpensive works of art will be for sale at this event.

PORTFOLIO INFO NEEDED!

Any artist who has catalogues of shows or exhibits in which Vicki Cole had entries is urged to give Vicki a copy for her portfolio and resume records, as hers were all lost in the studio fire.

STUDENT LOANS

Barb Carney, the Financial Aid Officer, reminds students that time is of the essence to get Alaska State student loan applications in. The sooner applied; the sooner received.

JTPA HONORED

Representatives from the office of The Junior Training Partnership Act in Wasilla will be honored at a luncheon given by Mark Ewing, President of the student government, on April 21 for the great assistance the organization has given to MSC students.

OTHER NOTICES

ART Club meets April 25, at 6:45 pm in the Art Room. There will be an important vote on spending funds.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT meets April 22, at 4:00 pm in Room 108.

ASHRAE meets first Thursday of every month in Room 124 at 6:00 pm.

NOONSINGERS meets noons of Tuesday and Thursdays in Room 108.

GEO Club meets last Tuesday of every month at noon in Room 124.

ENGLISH

English is a remarkable language. It is the native tongue of some 300 million people, second only to Mandarin Chinese. Even more remarkable is its geographic spread, in which it is second to none. Its speakers range from Point Barrow, Alaska, to the Falkland Islands near Cape Horn; from the Shetland Islands north of Scotland to Capetown at the southern tip of Africa; and from Hong Kong to Australia's island state of Tasmania. English is by far the most important "second language" in the world. It is spoken by tens of millions of educated Europeans and Japanese and is the most widely studied foreign tongue in both Russia and China. The expansion of English around the world has also been matched by the infiltration of English words into the vocabularies of dozens of other countries.

In 1963, a Frenchman, Professor Rene Etiemble, denounced "franglais"--French contaminated by English. He declared that unless something was done "in forty years time" the French language would cease to exist. The Academy of France set about preparing a list of linguistic no-nos.

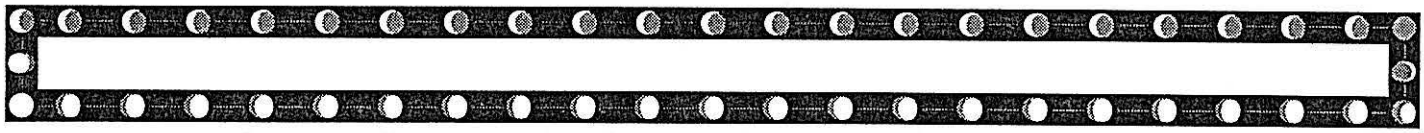
In 1982, France's former Culture Minister, Jack Lang, railed against American "cultural imperialism" shortly after his Socialist Party came to power.

In February, 1994, a bill was presented to the French Parliament which sets strict rules to check a rampant invasion of foreign words into the French language and bring down the full weight of the law on offenders. In an interview with the daily *Le Monde,* Culture Minister Jacques Toubon said, "We have too often believed that relinquishing French was the price to pay to enter the modern world, to trade and to exchange scientific knowledge." He also stated, "A foreign language...often becomes a tool of domination, uniformization, a factor of social exclusion and, when used snobbishly, a language of contempt."

The truth is that if borrowing foreign words could destroy a language, English would be dead (an old Norse word), deceased (from French), defunct (from Latin), and Kaput (from German). When it comes to borrowing, English excels (from Latin), surpasses (from French), and eclipses (from Greek) any other tongue, past or present. Of the thousand or two recently borrowed English words that are allegedly destroying French, a large proportion were not only borrowed earlier into English, but borrowed from French.

From century to century the great river of English has flowed on, an inexhaustible source of song and story, of comedy and tragedy, of histories and sermons, and of mere polite--or impolite--conversation. As it enriched the lives of past generations, so it will continue to enrich the lives of our children and their children's children--provided we take care that they learn how to understand and appreciate it.

And provided they remain free to speak it.



ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

by *Andrea C. Leonard*

Every beginning has an ending. Some are bittersweet, such as the ending of a semester here at Mat-Su College. Three and three-quarters hours a day or night, often for several nights or days each week, fifteen weeks have been spent with a group of people the student has gotten to know, some more closely than others, but all to a certain degree. The instructor and student are on a first name basis as a rule. A lot of information has been imparted to the student; sometimes the instructor has learned a thing or two. Everyone has benefited to some extent.

Suddenly, it's time for finals. In the fall, finals' week is accompanied by snow, early sundowns, Christmas shopping, family members coming home for the holidays, and STRESS in general. *see page 8*

BEGINNINGS

In the spring, finals' week is dressed up in spring finery as the trees leaf out, the days lengthen, the temperatures rise, and family members come home for summer vacations.

Amidst all this, the student has to study for those dreaded measurements of what he or she has learned in the preceding fourteen weeks, all the while knowing down deep inside that it would be so much better to be out there, shopping, jet skiing, hiking, anything but studying. More stress. Books are packed away, some are sold if they are in good enough condition or contain good enough notes to impart their value to a prospective student taking the same subject the next semester, and some--for those who sign up for the second semester of a two semester course--get set aside to await the start of the next round.

I wonder if others feel the tug I get on my emotions when I finish a class. Sure, I'm glad to be finished, particularly if it has been a difficult or complicated course. But I also feel a sense of loss somehow, as though the experiences I shared with twenty or so other students over the previous weeks are gone for good. Something seems to be missing that cannot quite be defined and certainly cannot be replaced. There is an esprit de corps that develops, particularly in the final few weeks of a course. It's a feeling of "We're all in this together," that overrides the initial feeling of "What am I doing here?" that seems to pervade the first part of a semester. Classmates who may have barely nodded to one another early in the semester begin sharing experiences during breaks, perhaps making appointments to study together, or calling one another for help with homework. The ice has broken for good and it seems there is just about enough time to get to a point of liking a person when, all of a sudden it's the last class of the course, and you know the next time you see that person things will feel different.

I guess that's it. Just when it gets to feeling friendly between a fellow student and me, or a teacher and me, it's over. The void that is left is hard to fill, even when returning the following semester, because it's a new class, new faces are all around, and the other person and I have lost the thread of what became commonality in those closing weeks of the semester. Stress comes back with a vengeance as new beginnings take the place of endings. The upside to this is that the new beginnings are vastly more comfortable, the faces far more familiar, and frequently I end up taking a subject with people I've shared a class with before.

Sometimes I feel like doing a Macauley Caulkins: grabbing my head and screaming at the top of my lungs when faced with the prospect of yet another class. Then I realize I have just about halfway completed my sojourn through postsecondary education. The real ending won't come for another couple of years, after several dozen more new faces and new acquaintanceships, countless essays, algebra problems, accounting homework and practice sets, trips to the library, passwords on the computer, and new names to learn. I don't know about others, but I'm awfully glad I decided to return to college. The real ending that heralds a real new beginning is, for now, undiscovered country. Stress aside, this is one of the most stimulating, rewarding experiences I've had in my adult life.